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Dear Sir.

Philadelphia Dec^r 18th 1779.

Colo. Laurens informs me he sets out this day to the southward, and my personal respect for you, induces me to embrace so favorable an opportunity of writing you; tho' we have nothing in particular here that deserves your attention, but what will be delivered you in a formal manner, or communicated by the bearer.

The disordered state of our Finances, under our present circumstances is truly distressing, & calls for the greatest exertions of the good people, in paying in their Taxes and loaning their money, so that the public treasury may be supplied.

I have nothing ~~new~~ ^{late} from Boston, owing (as I suppose) to the roads being much block'd with snow.

The Hon^{rs}. J. Adams & F. Dana Esq^{rs} sailed from Boston, about four weeks since for France, being charged ^{important} with ~~the~~ affairs from Congress, which I suppose you are acquainted with.

The Chevalier de la Luzerne the new Minister, & M^r Marbois his sec^y, are very agreeable gentlemen, and appear desirous of strengthening ^{the} alliance between the two Countries, and assisting us against the common enemy.

I inclose you the last public prints.

I am, Sir, with great respect, your most obedient servant.

W^m Hotten

Hon. General Lincoln.

L. n. Holton Dec. 18. 1779

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